

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A loading unit for a shoe press, especially designed to apply a load to the shoe (70) of the shoe press, said unit comprising:

a first cylinder part and a first piston part disposed in the cylinder part (6, 71),

a ~~first~~-second piston part (1, 114) arranged in the cylinder part, in which piston part the surface (2) facing towards the inner wall of the cylinder part is so shaped as to permit mutual tilting of the piston part and the cylinder part, the loading unit is arranged to be movable in a longitudinal direction (MD) of the machine, characterized in that

the piston part (1) and/or the cylinder part (6) are/is provided with means for arranging ~~a loading element~~ the loading unit (K) to be movable on the press shoe (70) and on a supporting beam (12) so that the loading unit (K) is movable in the space between the press shoe (70) and the supporting beam (12) at least in the machine direction (MD) when the press shoe (70) is supported by preventing its movement in the machine direction, and/or the press shoe (70) to be movable in the longitudinal direction (MD) of the machine, and that the piston part (1) and/or cylinder part are/is provided with means (22) for reducing lateral forces between the loading element and the shoe press supporting beam (12) or equivalent and the loading unit (K) is at least partially supported on the transfer means at least at one end, either on the side of the press shoe (70) or on the side of the supporting beam (12), in such manner that the transfer means (225, 226, 185) are locked at least when the compressive action of the loading unit is on.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A loading unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the loading unit (K) contains a second cylinder-piston unit (86, 100, 105) arranged inside it.

5. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, characterized in that the cylinder part (86) of the second cylinder-piston unit is so arranged in the first cylinder part (71) that it extends into the chamber space (S) between the first cylinder part (71) and the first piston part (86).

6. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, characterized in that the piston rod (105) of the piston part (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged, preferably by the opposite end relative to the second piston part (100), in the first piston part (114).

7. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, characterized in that the ~~piston rod~~ piston part (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) in a manner permitting motion and/or tilting.

8. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, characterized in that the ~~piston rod~~ piston part (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) with a joint (113) that preferably comprises a spherical surface part.

9. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the loading unit (K) further comprises at least one flow path (22) from the chamber space (S) between the first cylinder part (6, 71) and the first piston part (1, 114) to the space between the loading unit (K) and the supporting surface, ~~such as the supporting beam~~ (12).

10. (Previously Presented) A loading unit according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one first flow path (116) arranged in the loading unit (K) for conveying a pressure medium into the chamber space (S) between the first piston and the first cylinder.

11. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the apparatus comprises at least one flow path (196, 107) leading into the chamber space (S3) ~~between the second~~ a second cylinder space and the second piston.

12. (Currently Amended) A loading unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a flow path (130, 131, 132) into a second chamber space (S2)

between ~~the second~~ a second cylinder space and the second piston, said chamber space being located on the side of the piston rod (105).

13. (New) A loading unit according to claim 5, characterized in that the piston rod (105) of the piston part (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged, preferably by the opposite end relative to the second piston part (100), in the first piston part (114).

14. (New) A loading unit according to claim 5, characterized in that the piston rod (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) in a manner permitting motion and/or tilting.

15. (New) A loading unit according to claim 6, characterized in that the piston rod (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) in a manner permitting motion and/or tilting.

16. (New) A loading unit according to claim 5, characterized in that the piston rod (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) with a joint (113) that preferably comprises a spherical surface part.

17. (New) A loading unit according to claim 6, characterized in that the piston rod (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) with a

joint (113) that preferably comprises a spherical surface part.

18. (New) A loading unit according to claim 7, characterized in that the piston rod (100) of the second cylinder-piston unit is arranged in the first piston part (114) with a joint (113) that preferably comprises a spherical surface part.

19. (New) A loading unit according to claim 4, characterized in that the loading unit (K) further comprises at least one flow path (22) from the chamber space (S) between the first cylinder part (6, 71) and the first piston part (1, 114) to the space between the loading unit (K) and the supporting surface, such as the supporting beam (12).

20. (New) A loading unit according to claim 5, characterized in that the loading unit (K) further comprises at least one flow path (22) from the chamber space (S) between the first cylinder part (6, 71) and the first piston part (1, 114) to the space between the loading unit (K) and the supporting surface, such as the supporting beam (12).